

Whereas, this remarkable man gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life; Mr. Boone inspired others to do the same by witnessing him walk the walk and talk the talk, he opened doors for others to enter; and

Whereas, Mr. Boone led by doing behind the scenes and on the front lines for many; Mr. Boone was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a brother and a friend; he was our warrior, our patriarch, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of the community until his end; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow an honorable distinction and recognition on Mr. John Oscar Boone, Sr., for his leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Georgia and throughout the Nation; as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Mr. John Oscar Boone, Sr., of Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honorable Distinction"—Mr. John Oscar Boone, Sr., U.S. Citizen of Distinction, in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 8th day of December, 2012.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MICHAEL DAVID VARNER

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Michael David Varner, who passed away on February 6, 2013. During his long and distinguished career in education, Mr. Varner served as a mentor and an inspiration to countless individuals throughout Northwest Florida. After an arduous battle with brain cancer, the loss of a great man and unparalleled public servant and educator is felt not only here at home, but across the state of Florida.

Mr. Varner was born on October 8, 1953, in Highland Falls, New York. Upon graduating in 1971 from Niceville High School in Northwest Florida, Mr. Varner attended Okaloosa-Walton Community College, as well as, the University of South Florida. He continued his education at the University of West Florida, where he earned a Bachelors of Science and Masters of Science in Teaching.

Mr. Varner's passion for educating led him to Tate High School, where he taught biology for 35 years. He also served as an adjunct professor at Pensacola State College for ten years. During his years as an educator, his commitment was always to the students and helping them reach their goals, both in and out of the classroom. Mr. Varner coached soccer, sponsored Student Government and Exchange Club, and served as sponsor to both the sophomore and senior classes for students at Tate High School.

Mr. Varner has been widely recognized and honored for his years of teaching and service to the community with "Who's Who Among Teachers," Florida Biology Teacher of the Year, and most recently with the Escambia

County Teacher of the Year award in 2011. While the list of Mr. Varner's achievements extends far beyond what is noted here, they all highlight his unwavering devotion to improving the lives of those around him and to bettering his community through service.

In addition to his devotion to his students, Mr. Varner was a man of faith and committed to his parish. For nearly 20 years, he assisted Youth Ministry with planning, organizing, and assisting in many diocesan youth events. He was also a talented musician, who used his gift of music to write and play songs for church services and school functions.

Northwest Florida, Escambia County, Florida, and the many students whose lives were touched by Mr. Varner, mourn the loss of an exceptional man. His contributions and service to the community and this great nation will forever be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the exemplary life of Michael David Varner. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers to his wife Kathleen, his sons Jason and Brian, his parents Richard and Madeleine, his siblings Valarie and Richard, and Mr. Varner's entire family and friends. He will be truly missed by all.

#### HONORING DAVE OWENS

#### HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dave Owens, a Colorado businessman with a strong commitment to his community. As the owner of FASTSIGNS Greeley, Dave has built a business that has created jobs and provided economic value to Greeley and beyond. Small businesses throughout the area have come to rely on FASTSIGNS and the services it provides.

In addition to growing and managing a successful business, Dave has invested both time and resources into the community.

Dave and his company have sponsored countless events, charities, youth groups, and causes. His support has benefited the children of the Boys and Girls Club of Weld County, the survivors of domestic violence at A Woman's Place, and the countless many who depend on the services of the United Way. And when the men and women of the armed services return home from abroad, they often see a welcome home banner donated by Dave.

On February 7, 2013, Dave was honored at the Greeley Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Awards. He was recognized for his creativity and imagination as a business owner as well as his leadership and involvement in support of his community.

I join the Greeley Chamber of Commerce in congratulating Dave Owens, and I wish him continued success in business and his many civic involvements.

#### CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR UNITED WAY OF TUCSON AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA

#### HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, which has been recognized as a leader among its peers.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is in the top 2 percent of all United Way organizations in the country, according to a new business performance index developed by United Way Worldwide. This special status is based on leadership abilities, engagement in the community and for developing and implementing community strategies that get results.

That means that they are among the top 24 United Ways in the country—and I couldn't be prouder to have them serving Southern Arizona.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona serves a community of more than 1 million residents. Only 55 of the 1,215 United Way organizations in the nation are that large.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona was recognized for its impact promoting early literacy skills, engaging youth in afterschool programs, helping families become more financially stable and helping seniors remain healthy and active.

I especially want to recognize the accomplishments of Tony Penn, president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona. As a leader in his field, Mr. Penn and the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona will be asked to share their best practices with other United Way organizations around the country.

Mr. Penn and his organization are deeply committed to getting more children into high-quality childcare, providing mentors for underserved teens, preparing free tax returns for low- to moderate-income families and providing volunteer opportunities to seniors to keep them healthy and engaged in the community.

I know firsthand the impact that the United Way can have on a community, having had the honor to serve on the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona's board. Southern Arizonans are lucky to have the dedicated and talented staff of the United Way helping to strengthen our community each and every day.

I am proud to recognize the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona as well as its board members and its staff under the direction of Tony Penn for their significant contributions to our community.

#### REMEMBERING EDWARD L. MAXWELL

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn this week of the passing of Edward L. Maxwell, an old friend who was a community

leader in Prince George's County, Maryland. He was 80 years old when he lost his battle to cancer on January 29.

Born in 1932 in Phenix City, Alabama, a stone's throw from Fort Benning, Edward dreamed even as a boy of serving his country in the U.S. Army. At age 13, he rode a freight train to Washington, DC, with his older brother Stephen to chase the dream of a better life, and he attended Spingarn High School. In 1950, at age 18, Edward volunteered for the U.S. Army and was sent to Korea, where he was wounded in both legs and expected to be paralyzed permanently.

With grit and hard work, Edward spent time in rehab at Walter Reed Army hospital and was able to walk again. Following his military service, he studied at the Veterans Vocational Institute, the Cortez Peters Business School, the LaSalle School of Accounting, and the George Washington University. With a penchant for math and a love of learning, Edward embarked on a career in business that would eventually lead him to become a successful small business owner and founder of the Best Value and Allen's Discount retail stores. He started it all by selling encyclopedias, vacuum cleaners, and insurance policies—and working at fast-food restaurants—until he could afford to start his own businesses.

Later, Edward started other successful businesses, including a casino that contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to help individuals in the community afford college and pursue opportunities for their families. He launched a non-profit to help disabled veterans like himself access their earned benefits and find jobs, and he donated so much food to the needy over the holidays that, over the years, he became known locally as the "Turkey Man."

I first came to know Edward in the 1970s, when I was working as a lawyer in Prince George's County. He was a cherished member of the community who was not only a man of business but a man of deep faith in God and faith in his fellow men and women. Edward was also a loving husband, father, grandfather, and uncle.

Edward married his wife Freida in 1962, and after 50 years together, she survives him. So does their daughter Gene and four sons: Kermit, Zach, Edward Jr., and Mike. He was also blessed with six grandchildren.

I join in mourning Edward's passing and in offering my condolences to Freida and their entire family. He will be missed by the entire Prince George's County community, and his generosity, big heart, and warm spirit will be long remembered.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, due to airplane mechanical difficulties, I missed two recorded votes on February 4. I would like the Record to indicate at this point how I would have voted had I been present for those votes.

On Roll Call No. 31, H.R. 225, the National Pediatric Research Network Act of 2013, I would have voted "yea" to allow the National Institutes of Health to establish a national pe-

diatric research network dedicated to finding treatments and cures for pediatric diseases and conditions, especially those that are rare. This legislation will only help to build upon a strong body of existing pediatric research to help our nation's children lead full, healthy lives.

On Roll Call No. 32, H.R. 297, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013, I would have voted "yea" to amend the Public Health Service Act to extend and reauthorize appropriations to children's hospitals for expenses associated with graduate medical residency training programs. This legislation will help provide ongoing and consistent training of doctors and build our nation's pediatric physician workforce.

#### HONORING MR. JOHN EVANS

### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, a tenacious man from Nashville, Tennessee utilizes his gifts, talents and wisdom everyday to ensure that citizens are provided helpful resources in the state of Georgia; and

Whereas, Mr. John Evans is a renowned leader not only for the DeKalb County branch of the NAACP, but as a father and community leader in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mr. John Evans has served in many different roles throughout his life being a former DeKalb County Commissioner, a former Marta Board of Directors, a former player in the Negro Baseball League with the Indianapolis Clowns; he has worked in Corporate America as well as Main Street America being a strong advocate of justice, education, equality and family; and

Whereas, he has shared his time and talents for the betterment of his community and his nation through his tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that have and continues to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize John Evans for his outstanding leadership and service to the citizens in the state of Georgia, his community temperament is to be acknowledged and his commitment to the citizens throughout the state continues to touch the lives of citizens in our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim October 27, 2012 as John Evans Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 27th day of October, 2012.

#### MARKING ARCHBISHOP COLEMAN CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15th anniversary of Archbishop

Coleman Carroll High School in Miami, Florida. Founded in 1998 and administered by the Carmelite Sisters, Carroll offers its students the opportunity to pursue a rich academic curriculum in an environment that fosters both intellectual and spiritual strength.

Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School has established itself as a school with a challenging and thorough academic program while forming a partnership between students, parents and teachers. This has fostered a family-centered environment that extends beyond the classroom and leads to the success of its students. As such, Carroll's alumni have gone on to some of our nation's most prestigious universities and are leaders in their communities.

Part of what has made Carroll such a successful school is its faculty's focus on ensuring that its students excel both inside and outside of the classroom. In addition to its robust academics, Archbishop Coleman Carroll is home to an outstanding athletic program that has earned the Bulldogs numerous district and regional championships. Moreover, students at Carroll can participate in 18 different extracurricular clubs, nine honor societies and a campus ministry program designed to nurture faith and good values.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that Florida's 26th Congressional District is home to Archbishop Coleman Carroll, as well as most of its students and ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating its students, faculty and parents on its 15th anniversary.

#### CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF RAILWAY HISTORY IN MAGNOLIA

### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 12, 2013*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great community in my district. Magnolia, Texas, is celebrating 150 years of railway history with a new title—Train Town.

This designation from the Union Pacific Railroad will be official on Tuesday, February 12 when Union Pacific officials present the award to the Magnolia Historical Society, the City of Magnolia and the Greater Magnolia Chamber of Commerce.

It's fitting that the presentation will take place at Magnolia's historic Depot. While it may only be 110 years that the town has been officially called Magnolia, this community's rich history dates back to the mid-1800s. By the roaring twenties, Magnolia was a rail shipping center for everything from lumber to livestock and just about anything you could send on the rails.

Thank you, Union Pacific, for your efforts to recognize America's train history and these amazing train towns like Magnolia. Keeping a connection to our past is so important for our future.

Magnolia's historic Depot is located right in the heart of downtown at 426 Melton Street. In 2005, rather than tear it down to make way for a road expansion, it was carefully moved so it can continue to be a tangible link to Magnolia's rich heritage and a big part of the community we love.

Thanks to the Magnolia Historical Society, everyone who comes to the Depot can enjoy what the train city must have looked like and